

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-4 (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A method of managing a many-to-many relationship in an object persistence management system comprising the steps of:

- detecting a relationship change with a related object;
- storing a directive in a buffer, said directive specifying a management operation for changing said relationship in a junction table; and,
- searching for an opposite directive in a buffer associated with said related object; and,
- performing said stored directive only if the opposite directive has not been stored in said buffer associated with said related object.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein said storing step comprises the step of storing a directive in said buffer which specifies one of adding or removing a key-pair entry in said junction table.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said performing step comprises the steps of:

- performing said specified adding or removing of said key-pair entry only if a corresponding opposite directive specifying a respective removing or adding of said key-pair entry is not detected in said buffer of said associated object; and,

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responsive to detecting said corresponding opposite directive, removing both said directive and opposite directive from both said buffers.

Claims 8-11 (Cancelled)